

Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
11 April 2000 6:00 p.m.
Brentwood Middle School

Members/Alternates Present:

Community Members:

Dr. Gene Lené
RAB Community Co-Chair
Mr. Sam Murrah
Mrs. Dominga Adames
Mr. Paul Roberson
GKDA
Mr. Armando Quintanilla
Mr. Paul Person
Mr. Mark Puffer
Ms. Annalisa Peace
Mr. George Rice
Mr. Carl Mixon
Mr. Alfred Rocha

Public Members:

Mr. Pat McCullough
RAB Installation Co-Chair
Mr. Mark Weegar
TNRCC
Ms. Laura Stankosky
EPA
Mr. John A. Jacobi
TDH
Mr. Sam Sanchez
SAMHD
Mr. Edward Weinstein
SAWS

Members Absent Without Alternate:

Mr. Roy Botello	Mr. Kent Iglesias
Mrs. Tanya Huerta	Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Robert M. Murdock	

I. Call to Order

- A. Mr. Pat McCullough, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
- B. Mr. John Folk-Williams, RAB Facilitator, made a brief statement regarding the purpose of the meeting and the need to proceed according to the schedule, due to the full agenda. He also said neither the Air Force nor the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) were prepared to discuss further the groundwater study results. He said discussion would occur at a later date after TNRCC has had adequate time to review the study.
 - 1. Mr. Armando Quintanilla remarked the RAB should meet more often. He said more frequent meetings would allow the RAB to get to all the things it needs to address.
- C. Mr. McCullough asked the RAB members to introduce themselves.

II. Administrative Topics

- A. Action items from the last RAB meeting were reviewed.
 - 1. Item 1. Mr. George Rice asked if there was a written report addressing the vinyl chloride gas study recently conducted in the neighborhoods. He was told the report was available in the public library and copies are currently being produced for distribution to regulators and RAB members.
 - 2. Item 2. Mr. Rice stated he would like the Air Force to perform an analysis on his pump-treat-inject method equivalent to the analysis performed on the other alternatives in the *Zone 3 Groundwater Feasibility Study*. Mr. William Ryan, Kelly AFB, replied the alternative was evaluated for both Zones 2 and 3 and was screened out. Mr. Rice said it was a mistake to screen it out so early in the process.

3. Item 3. Mr. Rice asked for an update on what is known about fuel misting to date. Mr. McCullough, replied they did not know much about the particular phenomenon involved. The Air Force is currently seeking an expert to brief the RAB on what could have happened. Mr. Rice asked for this subject to be discussed at the next Technical Review Subcommittee meeting. Mr. McCullough agreed.

4. Items 4-7. No comments.

B. Member elections

1. Membership applications were voted on by the RAB. Current RAB member Mr. Paul Person requested to continue on the board. Mr. Názirite Pérez and Ms. Margaret Grybos were new applicants.
2. All applicants present were elected by acclamation.
3. Applicants Mr. Walter Martinez and Mr. Tony Martinez were not present. The RAB agreed to vote on their applications at the next meeting.

C. October Meeting Minutes

1. The minutes for the January 2000 RAB meeting were approved without change.
2. Ms. Grybos commented the questions should be phrased in the minutes exactly as stated and the answers should be provided immediately. She said it took too long for her questions to be answered.

III. Community Time

A. Ms. Grybos asked if Kelly AFB is part of Superfund.

1. Mr. McCullough, among others, told her no it wasn't a Superfund site.

B. She asked if other bases have problems similar to Kelly and if natural attenuation is being used at these bases.

1. Mr. McCullough replied many other bases have problems similar to, or worse than, Kelly AFB and natural attenuation is being used at some of those bases.

C. Ms. Grybos asked how long natural attenuation has been used, where it is being used, and is it being used in metropolitan areas, like Kelly AFB. She requested any associated health studies. She then asked if Kelly had applied a computer model to help them understand the contamination problem.

1. Mr. Ryan replied the Air Force is currently developing a model specific to Kelly AFB and it will be completed soon.

D. Mr. Nick Charles asked who is going to pay for the cleanup. He also expressed concern about the safety of children. He said test scores in the Edgewood School District are low and he and others believe it is because of the contamination. He asked if there was a study to determine if the contamination has caused low test scores.

1. Mr. McCullough said federal taxes will pay for the cleanup. Ms. Maria Teran-McIver, Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), said the health study has been completed for the off-base area and showed the contamination was not currently causing any health effects in the community.

E. Mr. Charles expressed concern the exhaust from increased jet traffic is polluting the air and causing cancer in residents.

1. Mr. McCullough replied the *Environmental Impact Statement*, currently underway, will cover all the effects of the increased jet traffic on air quality. Mr. Charles concluded by saying the government should tell the truth and not hide things from the citizens.

F. Ms. Christina Flores stated Kelly AFB should be responsible for cleaning up what it has caused. She said the contamination is more than an injustice, it is a crime. Excavations around Bldg. 171 were casing contaminated dirt and dust to fly. She asked what was being done to protect workers in Bldg. 171. She said people that work there are sick and

some are dying of cancer. Speaking on behalf of the Southwest Public Workers Union and the Committee for Environmental Justice Action (CEJA), they protest the Kelly RAB and Mayor Peak's economic development plan. She says the Mayor's plan does not allocate any money to clean up the contamination at Kelly AFB. Since the Mayor's plan did not take input from the community, it is an example of environmental racism, since 98 percent of the residents near Kelly AFB are Hispanic.

1. Mr. McCullough agreed that the Air Force should be, and is, responsible for cleaning up all the contamination it has caused. Ms. Annalisa Peace commented that the Union and CEJA should reconsider their stance on the city allocating money for the cleanup of Kelly. She said it the Air Force's responsibility, not the city's.
- G. Mr. Ché Lopez suggested the RAB invest in translation equipment, so those who do not speak English can understand what's being said at the meeting. He said the Union was upset because a meeting was held without their knowledge with residents regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent neighborhood sampling event. He asked the RAB to submit a formal complaint to EPA. He said EPA is not accountable to the citizens.
1. Ms. Laura Stankosky, EPA, said the meeting was held specifically for residents on whose property samples were taken. It was meant exclusively for them (some of whom did not wish their addresses to be made public), and provided an opportunity for those residents to ask questions in an informal setting. She said a presentation on the sampling effort was on the agenda following community comment period. (It was noted by Mr. Person that Mr. Lopez, along with several other attendees in his company, did not stay for EPA's presentation, and left the meeting immediately following the public comment period.)
 2. Mr. Rice said the RAB should look at addressing the need for translators. Mr. Mark Puffer said it would be appropriate to seek a volunteer to provide translations for those who need it.
 3. Ms. Dominga Adames, said there was a miscommunication between EPA and citizens regarding the time of the meeting. She said the meeting time was changed without sufficient notification to the invitees. Ms. Stankosky apologized for the miscommunication.
- H. Mr. Frank Pena spoke at length about a number of issues, mostly to Greater Kelly Development Authority(GKDA) activities and policies. He expressed concern for the safety of the children in the neighborhoods affected by the contamination.
- I. Ms. Rogela Galaviz presented her comments in Spanish through an interpreter. She said her daughter has sinus problems and nosebleeds she believes is due to the contamination, and it smells bad where she lives. She said her house has new pipes and the water has black specks in it, and the problem has gotten worse since a new water storage tank was installed near her home. She concluded by saying everyone needs to do their part to keep the environment clean.

IV. EPA Sampling Results

- A. Contractors from EPA presented their report on the results of the community sampling event conducted in February 2000. The purpose of the sampling was to compare the results to past Air Force sampling results. They commented the sampling results were mostly similar to the Air Force's results. (See attachment 2.)
- B. Discussion
1. Mr. Rice asked why lower detection limits weren't used. He said it would have been easy to ask the lab for lower detection limits. He said these detection limits are the type of limits you use when you don't want to find anything.

2. Mr. Mark Weegar, said the detection limits used in the test would not be acceptable to TNRCC for closing out a site.
3. Mr. Pena asked if inactive wells were tested.
 - a) Ms. Stankosky said the RAB chose the 25 active wells to be sampled. (Note: No inactive wells were sampled. Inactive wells are permanently sealed and in order to sample inactive wells you have to redrill the well.)

V. Site S-4 Corrective Measures Study Technical Assistance for Public Participation(TAPP) Presentation

- A. Mr. Patrick Lynch, Clearwater Revival Company, presented highlights from his report on the *Site S-4 Corrective Measures Study*. He reported all alternatives had similar clean-up times and so time was not an issue in selecting the best alternative. (See Attachment 3.)
- B. Discussion
 1. Mr. Rice asked if the Air Force intends to recalibrate the groundwater model, as was suggested.
 - a) Mr. McCullough replied it has recalibrated the groundwater model.
 2. Ms. Peace complimented Mr. Lynch for the presentation and expressed her appreciation to the Department of Defense for providing money for the TAPP program.

VI. Technical Review Subcommittee (TRS) Report

- A. Dr. Lené reported on the TRS meetings held during February and March. The next meeting is set for 9 May 2000 at St. Mary's University. (See Attachment 4.)
- B. Dr. Lené also reported the TRS decided to request a TAPP on the *Assessment of the Shallow Groundwater Zone in Southwest Bexar County*. The formal request for this and two other TAPP reviews will be accomplished at the May TRS meeting. (See Attachment 4.)

VII. Relative Risk Site Evaluation Briefing

- A. Mr. Ryan gave a brief orientation on Relative Risk Evaluation to help the RAB understand the role this evaluation plays. The presentation emphasized that the evaluation's primary function is to help ensure that sites most needing cleanup are considered a priority when funds are short. It was pointed out that all Kelly AFB sites requiring cleanup have been fully funded and the cleanup is progressing. (See Attachment 5.)
- B. Synopsis of each of site evaluation will be provided to each RAB member for their review and preparation for a discussion on the individual rankings. A discussion of the Relative Risk Ranking of the sites will occur at the next RAB meeting.
 1. Mr. Quintanilla was upset he did not receive the relative risk information on all the sites as he requested. He was told that the information would be mailed to him and the rest of the RAB by the end of the week.

A 15 minute break was taken

VIII. Public Health Assessment TAPP Presentation

- A. Dr. Squibb read her report. She reviewed what the ATSDR report covered and their findings. She had no significant differences with their report. In summary she suggested more studies on: past and present air emission and its impact, and the health of on base workers. (See Attachment 6.)

B. Discussion

1. Mr. Rice asked if Dr. Squibb had discussed here findings with ATSDR. She responded she had and many of the comments are being incorporated into future studies.
2. Ms. Peace said this report should have been given earlier in the meeting. Mr. Puffer agreed, saying that the RAB needs to ensure the public is present to hear these presentations.
3. Mr. Person said it was the public's choice to leave or stay, and they chose to leave.

IX. ATSDR Briefing

- A. Ms. Teran-McIver gave a presentation on ATSDR Community Assistance Panels (CAP) program. (See Attachment 7.) She concluded while a CAP may not be appropriate at this time, other more informal bodies could serve the people better, such as a working group or a RAB subcommittee. She said ATSDR is not authorized to organize a formal CAP until findings are brought upon Kelly. To date, this has not occurred.
- B. Mr. Sam Sanchez said there are several initiatives going on right now that are addressing health concerns in the community. He said a community health forum sponsored by CEJA and San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) will be held in May to educate people on public health issues. He commented people are concerned about their health and have nowhere to go because many are without health insurance. He said the RAB should not divorce cleanup issues from health issues, because they are related. The RAB needs to address this. He said the RAB's decisions could affect thousands of people.
- C. Mr. McCullough said the health issues are important and should be addressed. He said something should be set up that will be more long-term than the RAB will be. He said the RAB will be finished when the last remedy is in place (2004). He continued, health issues will need to be addressed long after the RAB is finished. Mr. McCullough said that he and Dr. Lené met earlier in the day with SAMHD Director Dr. Guerra and discussed long-term plans. Mr. McCullough said the Air Force will support these plans.
- D. Discussion
 1. Ms. Teran-McIver was asked if ATSDR could fund a community forum. She said she did not know; however she would ask.
 2. Ms. Teran-McIver was asked to restate the schedule for upcoming ATSDR reports. It was announced as follows:
 - a) On-base Drinking Water: May 2000
 - b) Soil Gas Off-Base at East Kelly: July 2000
 - Past Air Emissions Off-Base: October 2000

X. Meeting Wrap Up

- A. The next regular RAB Meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 18, 2000 at Dwight Middle School.
- B. Meeting evaluation was conducted. See Attachment 8.
- C. Suggested agenda items for the next RAB Meeting
 1. Relative Risk Site Evaluation Review
 2. Status of TNRCC review of the *Assessment of the Shallow Groundwater Report*
 3. Community Action Plan Status
 4. Presentation on how responsibility for spills are assigned by GKDA
 5. Committee appointed to see how to appoint a sub-committee for health
 6. Revisit meeting RAB frequency

D. Action Items for the next RAB Meeting (No Action Items were presented during the wrap up. The following were gleaned from the meeting notes and transcript.)

ITEM#	Requestor	Request
1	Mr. Quintanilla	He requested a copy of the executive summary of the <i>Vinyl Chloride Vapor Testing Report</i> .
2	Ms. Grybos	Are other bases in the country having basically the same problems as Kelly and are they using natural attenuation .
3	Ms. Grybos	Could I have list of the bases, how long they have been using natural attenuation, what are its steps and whether it is in a large metropolitan area and also the health assessments that went with these.
4	Ms. Grybos	Would like to see any study on monitored natural attenuation conducted on any area similar to San Antonio.
5	Ms. Grybos	Would like a report on the groundwater model.
6	Ms Flores	How are the employees being protected from the dirt that's out being captured, like the extra dirt from the digging going on <i>around building 171</i> .
7	Mr. Rice	What reference material show the possibility of stainless steel well screens causing high hits for Chromium. <i>For EPA contractors</i> .
8	Mr. Pena	Would like a cleanup timetable.
9	Mr. Quintanilla	Can ATSDR provide funding for forming a committee organization to look into health issues. <i>For ATSDR</i> .
10	Ms. Grybos	Are there any plans for a long term study of former and present employees of Kelly(AFB) to determine if they were exposed to contaminants and display any symptoms.

E. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Motions/Resolutions

Motions

- Motion was made to elect as RAB members by acclamation Mr. Person, Ms. Grybos, and Mr. Pérez.
 - Passed unanimously
- Motion was made to approve the Jan 25, 2000 RAB minutes.
 - Passed unanimously

Attachments (* Items were provided at the meeting to all RAB members)

(# Items were provided in Meeting Materials Package)

- Kelly AFB Restoration Advisory Board Materials Package *
 - Jan 25, 2000 RAB Meeting
- EPA Sampling Briefing *
- Site S-4 Corrective Measures Study TAPP Presentation *#
- Technical Review Subcommittee Report Notes & TAPP Update
- Relative Risk Site Evaluation Briefing *#
- Public Health Assessment TAPP Presentation *#
- ATSDR Briefing *
- Meeting Evaluation Notes.